

## National Cancer Registrars Week Spotlights Registrars' Important Role in Fight Against Cancer

CRANSTON, R.I. – April 10, 2009 - More than 25 cancer registrars work in health care organization across our state. Next week (April 13-17), these employees will be recognized during National Cancer Registrars Week.

Cancer registrars collect and maintain data related to the Rhode Island cancer patient population. The information is submitted to state and national cancer registries for use in research, treatment, and prevention initiatives. This data enables cancer programs to accurately determine cancer patient populations, measure outcomes of treatment and survival, and formulate plans for quality improvement. Valuable cancer data is central to the nation's cancer fighting efforts and registrars are the first link in capturing data on diagnosed patients.

This year's theme for the week is "Cancer Registrars...Rock Solid" in an effort to reflect the professionalism cancer registrars bring to the spectrum of cancer related initiatives.

"Cancer registrars are central to the fight against cancer," said David L. Rousseau, director, cancer information systems. "It is because of their hard work and determination that we can provide the data needed to help to improve treatment and prevention efforts."

The Rhode Island Statewide Cancer Registry is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Program of Cancer Registries and has been operating under the auspices of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island since 1986. The Rhode Island database contains 20 complete years of data including over 150,000 cases diagnosed in the state. The registry has been awarded the "gold standard" by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries for ten consecutive years for meeting the highest standard in all six distinct criteria of data quality that were assessed.

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